

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Managers Minutes
April 24, 2025

President, Gene Tiedemann, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.

Managers Present: Gene Tiedemann, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose, Terry Sorenson, Grant Nelson, and Al Page. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Tony Olson, Nate Koland, Erick Huseth, Lindsey Deselich, Will Johnson, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Page, and passed by a unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

A request to appear was made by Pennington County resident, Wendy Bovee.

The Board reviewed the April 10, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, to approve the April 10, 2025, Board meeting minutes, with corrections as noted. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated April 23, 2025. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Financial Report dated April 23, 2025. Motion carried.

Staff member Elaine Rychlock reviewed the current Certificate of Deposits rates for Dakota Heritage Bank, Northern State Bank of Thief River Falls, and American Federal Bank, Fosston. We have a Dakota Heritage Bank Certificate of Deposit that matured on April 24, 2025. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to approve re-investing that CD at Dakota Heritage Bank for a twelve-month period at the current offered interest rate of 4.5%. Motion carried.

Staff member Elaine Rychlock reviewed the General Fund Budget as of March 31, 2025.

Administrator Audette and Tony Nordby, HEI, discussed RLWD Project No. 149, Huot Bank Stabilization. The work is scheduled to begin in June of 2025.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, presented information on the Turtle Connection Cross Project.

Administrator Audette discussed several calls from landowners regarding drainage upstream of the Brandt Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60D. Discussion was held on the potential of a project, applying for funding through the Red River Basin Riparian Habitat program. This funding would pay for easements, but not construction of the project. Audette noted that the outlet end of the Brandt Impoundment has RIM easements in place, with setback levees. It was the consensus of the Board to have a meeting with local landowners for input on a potential project.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 25018, Tim Hoefler, Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County; No. 25020, Ben & Mikayla Tabert, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 25021, Steve Rosten, Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 25022, Leslie Hofstad, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 25023, Gregory Whalen, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 25024, Stenberg Family Farm LLC, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 25025, Joel Stolaas, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; No. 25026, Greg Hilgeman, Deer Park Township, Pennington County; and No. 25028, Gordon Terpstra, Crookston Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reminded the Board of the upcoming Red River Basin Commission Tour in Moorhead on June 4, 2025, beginning at 10:30 am. The event will begin at the Courtyard by Marriott Fargo-Moorhead from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Administrator's Report:

- **RRWMB Update:** At the April RRWMB meeting, the RRWMB approved hiring Lobbyist Park Street Public to represent projects within the Red River Valley at the federal level in Washington DC at a cost of \$121,750.
- We were notified that the funding for the Culvert Inventory and 10-Year Flood Plain Mapping has been cut. Discussion should be made about how this will relate to the State Ditch 83 Area Project Work Team Process.
- On Tuesday, April 22nd, I forwarded to all the Board members the most recent Legislative update from Rob Sip.
- Included in the packet was an agenda for a RRWMB Special Board meeting held on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. Congresswoman Fischbach attended the meeting, along with Managers Ose and Sorenson.
- **Project 49, Main JD #2:** Six beavers were trapped, there was removal of an extremely large beaver dam and the replacement of a side water inlet crossing. Work was being completed by Dyrdaahl Construction.
- **RLWD Ditches:** Erick Huseth began inspection of RLWD ditches. Huseth found a large amount of sediment in Ditch 12, RLWD Project No. 169 and Burnham Creek, RLWD Project No. 43B.
- Surveying was completed on Project 48, Branch A and Branch 1 of JD 2 with the information turned over to Houston Engineering for review.
- RLWD Project No. 113, Winsor Hangaard-the SCS ditch portion of the system has water sitting in the ditch due to a large beaver dam that is plugging the pipe through the township road in Hangaard Township. The township is planning to replace the culvert in the next couple weeks. District staff will complete the survey once the water level has dropped.
- **Thief River 1W1P:** The District received the executed Thief River 1W1P Midpoint Assessment Grant Agreement in the amount of \$50,000
- District staff have completed the survey on the Thief River Bank Stabilization Projects, with the information turned over to Houston Engineering for design. District staff will be planting trees within the next several weeks at the 2024 sites.

Motion by Dwight, seconded by Nelson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LeRoy Ose". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on the page.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary